Improvement in Agriculture sector

2900. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture sector has shown any improvement in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the trends thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to further increase the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The growth rate of agriculture sector depends upon a large number of factors including agro-climatic conditions and investment in agriculture. The trend of growth in agriculture and allied sector during last three years at 1993-94 prices, as per estimates released by Central Statistical Organisation, are as under:

Year	Growth rate (%)
1998-99	7.1
1999-2000	0.7*
2000-01	0.9@

* Quick Estimate

@ Advance Estimate

(c) To increase production and thus growth rate in agriculture sector, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme envisages integration of 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans which will give flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in

the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture.

Agricultural Loans to Farmers

2901. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for sanctioning agricultural loans to the farmers during the last two years;

(b) whether the target has been fulfilled; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The targets fixed for sanctioning agricultural loans to the fanners for agriculture and allied activities during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were Rs. 40,569 crores and Rs. 47,060 crores respectively.

(b) The disbursement of credit by Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks for agriculture and allied activities during the last two years, i.e. 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were Rs. 36,708 crores and Rs. 44,612 crores which constitutes 91% and 95% of the targets respectively.

(c) The main reasons for not achieving the targets were the weak cooperative credit structure in some of the States, low level of recoveries and inadequate infrastructural facilities resulting in less credit absorption capacity.

Agricultural Productivity

† 2902. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per hectare productivity of agriculture

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.